

## Hearing Postponed on Demolition of Westbury Square Buildings

A hearing in state district court concerning condemned property at Westbury Square has been postponed at the request of the attorney representing the property's owners.

Assistant City Attorney Jacqueline Leguizamon says Robert G. Lowman Jr., the attorney representing Westbury Square owners including Al Antonini, re-

quested that the hearing be reset because of his personal vacation schedule.

Leguizamon says attorneys are afforded the courtesy of four weeks during the year when they can request that hearings be reset because of their personal vacation schedules.

Buildings 1, 5 and 11 were declared "dangerous" by the City of Houston on June 18,

2008, and Buildings and Standards declared them a nuisance. As such, they must be torn down.

Lowman filed an appeal on that decision on July 18, 2008, and a hearing on the appeal was set for Monday, July 27, in district court.

Leguizamon says the hearing has not yet been reset.

*Westbury Square, once the toast of Southwest Houston, is the subject of a city order to demolish dangerous buildings. A hearing on the order has been postponed.*



## Finally Moving Forward on Bellaire's Firehouse!

Bellaire's City Council gathered in a special called session Monday night for the singular purpose of authorizing the fire station's temporary move to property owned by Chevron at S. Rice and Fournace.

The third try was the

charm. Two earlier attempts at passing the ordinance had been stymied by the absence or refusal of council members, leaving too few votes to authorize the move.

On July 6, after discussion of the plan, Council members John Jeffrey, Peggy

Faulk and Jim Avioli recused themselves because of conflicts of interest involving their ties to Chevron. With Council member Dr. Phil Nauert absent, there were too few votes to act.

But the city needed to move forward, and Chevron

couldn't begin construction to build out the space to fire department specifications until the ordinance was passed, so the issue was placed on the agenda for July 20.

But last Monday, attendance again proved trouble-

some. This time, Council member Will Hickman, who Mayor Cindy Siegel expected to attend, was the no-show. Siegel sent Faulk to call Hickman. The message from Faulk: Hickman wouldn't be there.

"This is ridiculous," the

Mayor said in an unusual show of displeasure. "We need to get this done."

So one more try on July 27, this time successful. Council's actions should ensure that groundbreaking for the fire station can occur in September.

### News & Notes

July 28, 2009



#### Baracudas Freestyle Relay Undefeated

The Bellaire Baracudas girls 6 and under 4 x 25 meter freestyle relay team went undefeated this season and came in first place in the SWAL finals on July 1, 2009. The girls beat the West University Piranha's, Southwest United and the Willow Wahoo's and were awarded the gold medal. Team members include (l-r): Julianna Cantrell, Delilah Nguyen, Haley Simmons, Riley Harrison.



#### Westbury Little League Fall Baseball Registration Underway

Westbury Little League's Fall Baseball registration is underway! Boys and girls ages 5 - 12 (as of April 30, 2010) are eligible to play. Parents can register their son or daughter by going to [www.westburyll.org](http://www.westburyll.org) or calling (713) 723-1701. Westbury Fall Baseball is open to players living inside and outside the Westbury Little League boundary. Games and practices are held at Westbury Little League (5300 Dryad) with play starting in early-September and running through mid-November.

A Skills Clinic will be held in mid-October to reinforce baseball fundamentals. Take the opportunity expose your son or daughter to more pitching, more hitting and more fielding in the relaxed environment of Westbury Little League's Fall Baseball Program.

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# SOUTHWEST

## News

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## Saluting Southwest Houston Women... District C Councilmember Guides City Through Budgeting Process

Throughout this issue of Southwest News, readers will find stories about outstanding Southwest Houston women, women who make a difference in the lives of others as they work, volunteer and raise families. We begin with a story about City Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck.

By Melissa Woods

After making more than 90 amendments to the proposed \$4 billion budget for the 2010 fiscal year, Houston City Council has passed a disciplined plan that should keep the city in a comfortable financial position over the next year.

Council Member Ann Clutterbuck, who has served as Chair of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee since her appointment in January 2008, believes that this year's budget reform will be a positive change for the city.

"We have seen some great strides over the past budget season," said Clutterbuck. "Tightening the budget can always lead to uncertainty, but I believe the issues we've addressed will better Houston in many ways."

Part of the budget change includes funding for a new police station in the Westbury and Fondren southwest areas.

"I am tremendously proud and encouraged to have passed an amendment to build a new police station to serve the area," said Clutterbuck.

The neighborhood will now have a full-operating station, instead of the storefront location at 5550 Gasmer.



Houston's District C Councilmember Anne Clutterbuck has chaired the city's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee since 2008.

Clutterbuck said that one of her primary concerns coming into budget season was the public safety of the city's residents, along with lowering this year's spending.

One amendment, which Clutterbuck strongly backed, was to keep the city's em-

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**Clutterbuck from page 1**

ployment level consistent with the 2009 budget. This decision alone will save the city \$9.5 million in expenses.

"It's a disciplined budget, but that's the direction Houston must take if we're going to keep costs down," she said.

According to Clutterbuck, "there are several financial issues" that will be addressed in coming

months. Employee pension issues will be evaluated in the future, along with the city's combined utilities system.

"We are going to address problems with the combined utilities system and how we can rework things to be more cost efficient," she said.

The Council also encourages residents to spend and shop to boost the economy.

"Income is determined by city sales tax. We want to encourage people to consume inside the city to promote growth," said Clutterbuck.

Beyond spending, the city finally received a long overdue payment from FEMA Disaster Assistance after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Clutterbuck and fellow Council Member Ronald C. Green took a trip to Washington, D.C. to defend Houston's appeal for a \$2.4 million reimbursement for emergency housing assistance expenses.

"We are very excited about getting reimbursed from four years ago. It's long overdue and we're very pleased that FEMA understood and took our position seriously," said Clutterbuck.

A payment of this stature will allow Houston to sit a little more comfortably in 2010.

"Houston continues to thrive, even through hard times," said Clutterbuck. "It's not all roses, but it's not all bad either."

**Vision from page 3**

"A lot of these guys have already had military eye exams, and some things have been missed. A

study in 2006 found that 26 percent of soldiers had vision problems associated with brain injuries that had been overlooked," Wickum said. "If you don't have experience with brain injuries, it's hard to diagnose what you don't know to look for."

Wickum is working to raise awareness among both military and civilian eyecare providers, often giving talks, conducting training sessions and sharing research results across the nation.

Symptoms that are most often missed stem from eye coordination, or binocular, conditions and up-close focusing, or accommodation, problems.

Wickum said many of her patients have eye muscle coordination disorders, such as convergence insufficiency, which can be remedied through office-based and/or home-based eye exercises. For those who aren't good candidates for vision therapy, often a prism incorporated into a pair of glasses will do the trick.

"The soldiers we examine also have a lot of light sensitivity, and it's so bad that they wear sunglasses indoors and brimmed hats because the lights are so intense to

them," Wickum said. "A lot of them suffer from blast injuries, where they have been subjected to extremely high-pressure, high-velocity blast waves that jar the entire body."

For patients with light sensitivity, Wickum provides tinted glasses and contact lenses that filter out the spectrum of light that seems to be the culprit.

Other symptoms brain-injured patients exhibit include double vision, eye strain, dizziness and motion sickness.

"One of the first guys I evaluated through this program came in with a giant walking stick that was as tall as he was, and he used it to keep his balance," Wickum recalled. "During some of the testing, he actually felt like he was going to throw up, and we'd give him breaks. Once we figured out that he had a vertical imbalance in his eyes, we gave him prism glasses, and, within an hour, he was significantly better, buzzing around unassisted between the clinics."

For Wickum, whose family has a history of military service, it's the least she can do.

"The soldiers are totally deserving after all they've been through. Their stories are just incredible," she said. "One had been in three helicopter crashes – and two out of three times was the sole survivor. How is that possible?"

At TIRR, eye care is just one small, but critical, step toward rehabilitating service members so that they can either stay in the military productively or reintegrate into civilian life.

"We've been amazed at the improvement in our clients after care from Dr. Wickum and the UH clinic," said Project Victory program manager Shawn Brossart. "The specialized treatment they provide is not available in many of the service members' hometowns. Dr. Wickum and the UH clinic contribute in a unique way to the successes injured military accomplish in the Project Victory program."

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**Ramondetta from page 11**

ing between further treatment and quality of life.

"Sometimes, if you let yourself, all you do is go in and do the exam. You say 'hi' and 'bye' and that's it. You think, 'I just had a woman come in to see if she had a recurrence or not' and then it's done. There's no connection. I think doctors have to be careful not to let that happen."

She is married to KPFT's blues bossman, Nuri Nuri, and is the mother of two.

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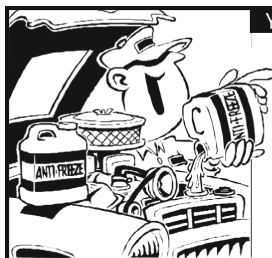
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